

Senate Joint Resolution 13  
February 17, 2011  
Presented by Joe Maurier  
Senate Fish and Game Committee

Mr. Chairman and committee members, I am Joe Maurier, Director of the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP). I am here in support of Senate Joint Resolution 13.

SJR13 confirms Montana's right and ability to maintain its wildlife heritage and manage all wildlife within the state. It allows Montana to continue to lead and obtain results in the divisive and difficult issue of wolf management. In short, SJR13 directs Montana to continue to do the right thing and follow through on its hard work, not the least of which was the crucial work conducted by the 12 member Montana Wolf Advisory Council, which was a diverse, independent, and bipartisan stakeholder group.

SJR13 validates that Montana has done everything asked of it, adopting a model wolf management plan, enacting enabling legislation, adopting implementing rules, adopting a management hunt when it was able, and continuing to pursue all its options.

Specifically, SJR13 recognizes that the Northern Rocky mountain gray wolf population is biologically recovered and has met all recovery criteria required under the federal Endangered Species Act. Therefore, it supports immediate delisting and managing the gray wolf in Montana under Montana's existing wolf management plan.

By supporting an act of Congress or a delisting rule that can withstand legal challenge, Senate Joint Resolution offers Montana's best hope to regain state management of its wildlife heritage. Accordingly, FWP strongly supports passage of SJR 13.